

B¹
-38. (Amended) A shock absorber comprising a cylinder, the cylinder defining a chamber therein and containing a fluid; a piston rod sealingly projecting into the cylinder, the piston rod being axially displaceable with respect to the cylinder; a piston attached to the piston rod, the piston being slidably disposed within the cylinder to sealingly divide the cylinder into a first chamber and a second chamber; a passageway disposed in at least a portion of the piston providing for fluid communication between the first and second chambers; wherein the fluid comprises a biodegradable polyol ester, said polyol ester having a polyol component and a carboxylic acid component, the polyol component comprising a hindered polyol and the carboxylic acid component comprising a mixture of two or more C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids; and wherein said fluid is at least 80% biodegradable.

B²
-43. (Amended) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein the carboxylic acid component further comprises a branched carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.

B³
-46. (Amended) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein said carboxylic acid component further comprises a dicarboxylic acid.

B⁴
-54. (Amended) A shock absorber containing a hydraulic fluid for dampening movement of associated mechanical members therein, said hydraulic fluid comprising a biodegradable polyol ester, said polyol ester having a polyol component and a carboxylic acid component, the polyol component comprising a hindered polyol and the carboxylic acid component comprising a mixture of two or more C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids; and wherein said fluid is at least 80% biodegradable.

B⁵
-59. (Amended) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein the carboxylic acid component further comprises a branched carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.

--62. (Amended) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said

B₈ carboxylic acid component further comprises a dicarboxylic acid|--

--68. (Amended) A method of dampening the movement of a mechanical

B₇ member disposed within a shock absorber, wherein said mechanical member defines a first chamber and a second chamber within the shock absorber and includes at least one passageway for fluid communication between the first and second chambers; said method comprising providing a hydraulic fluid in the first and second chambers, the hydraulic fluid comprising a biodegradable polyol ester, said polyol ester having a polyol component and a carboxylic acid component, the polyol component comprising a hindered polyol and the carboxylic acid component comprising a mixture of two or more C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids, wherein said fluid is at least 80% biodegradable, such that passage of the hydraulic fluid through the at least one passageway dampens the movement of the mechanical member|--

--73. (Amended) The method according to claim 68, wherein the carboxylic acid

B₈ component further comprises a branched carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

--76. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said carboxylic acid

B₉ component further comprises a dicarboxylic acid|--